

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James A. Yurko, Rodger W. Brower, Raul A. Martinez, Merton C. Flemings,
and Paolo Bertelli

For : PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A METAL ALLOY

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed foreign patent documents and the non-patent literature are attached.

As the Office has waived the requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication, copies of the listed U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication documents are not included with the submission of attached Form PTO 1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants : James A. Yurko, Rodger W. Brower, Raul A. Martinez, Merton C. Flemings,
and Paolo Bertelli
For : PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A METAL ALLOY
Page : 2

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2463.

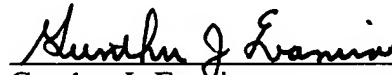
Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. YURKO ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton, LLP

January 21, 2004

Date



Gunther J. Evanina

Registration No. 35 502

695 Kenmoor, S.E.

Post Office Box 2567

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

(616) 949-9610

GJE/daw

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. PRI13 P-316	SERIAL NO.
APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.		
FILING DATE		GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		6 6 4 5 3 2 3	11/11/03	Flemings et al.			
		6 6 4 0 8 7 9	11/04/03	Richard et al.			
		6 6 3 3 4 9 2	10/14/03	Kimura et al.			
		6 5 2 0 7 6 2	02/18/03	Kestle et al.			
		6 5 1 4 3 0 9	02/04/03	LeBeau et al.			
		6 5 1 4 3 0 8	02/04/03	LeBeau et al.			
		6 4 9 4 7 0 3	12/17/02	Kestle et al.			
		6 4 7 0 9 5 5	10/29/02	Richard et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
							Y N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		

Sheet 2 of 4 FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. PRI13 P-316	SERIAL NO.
APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.		
FILING DATE		GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		6 4 3 2 1 6 0	08/13/02	Norville et al.			
		6 4 0 2 3 6 7	06/11/02	Lu et al.			
		6 3 9 9 0 1 7	06/04/02	Norville et al.			
		6 3 2 1 8 2 4	11/27/01	Fink et al.			
		6 3 0 8 7 6 8	10/30/01	Rice et al.			
		6 2 9 9 6 6 5	10/09/01	LeBeau et al.			
		6 2 8 3 1 9 7	09/04/01	Kono			
		6 2 6 9 5 3 7	08/07/01	Kimura et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
							Y N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		

Sheet 2 of 4 FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. PRI13 P-316	SERIAL NO.
APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.		
FILING DATE		GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
	6 2 5 0 3 6 4	06/26/01	Chung et al.			
	6 2 4 1 0 0 1	06/05/01	Kono			
	6 1 6 5 4 1 1	12/26/00	Adachi et al.			
	6 0 6 5 5 2 6	05/23/00	Kono			
	6 0 5 9 0 1 2	05/09/00	Vining et al.			
	5 9 9 6 6 7 9	12/07/99	Pinnow et al.			
	5 9 8 3 9 7 8	11/16/99	Vining et al.			
	5 9 8 0 6 6 0	11/09/99	Garat et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
						Y N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. PRI13 P-316	SERIAL NO.
APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.		
FILING DATE		GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
	5 9 6 0 2 9 2	10/19/99	Bergsma			
	5 9 5 4 1 1 6	09/21/99	Jung			
	5 9 1 1 8 4 3	06/15/99	Bergsma			
	5 9 0 1 7 7 8	05/11/99	Ichikawa et al.			
	5 0 8 7 6 4 0	03/30/99	Brown et al.			
	5 0 8 1 7 9 6	03/16/99	Brown et al.			
	5 8 6 5 2 4 0	02/02/99	Asuke			
	5 8 1 9 8 3 9	10/13/98	Mihelich et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
						Y N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL	
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

<p>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use several sheets if necessary)</p>	<p>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</p> <p>PRI13 P-316</p>	<p>SERIAL NO.</p>
<p>APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.</p>		
<p>FILING DATE</p>		<p>GROUP</p>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		5 7 3 0 1 9 8	03/24/98	Sircar			
		5 7 1 1 3 6 6	01/27/98	Mihelich et al.			
		5 7 0 1 9 4 2	12/30/97	Adachi et al.			
		5 6 9 7 4 2 5	12/16/97	Nanba et al.			
		5 6 7 9 1 8 2	10/21/97	Marder et al.			
		5 5 7 1 3 4 6	11/05/96	Bergsma			
		5 5 5 5 9 2 6	09/17/96	Uchimura et al.			
		5 5 3 3 5 6 2	07/09/96	Moschini et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
							Y N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	
<p><small>EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small></p>		

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 2-32) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. PRI13 P-316	SERIAL NO.
APPLICANTS James A. Yurko et al.		
FILING DATE		GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPRO- PRIATE
		5 4 1 3 6 4 4	05/09/95	Marder et al.			
		4 8 3 2 1 1 2	05/23/89	Brinegar et al.			
		4 7 7 1 8 1 8	09/20/88	Kenney			
		4 5 6 5 2 4 1	01/21/86	Young			
		4 1 0 8 6 4 3	08/22/78	Flemings et al.			
		3 9 4 8 6 5 0	04/06/76	Flemings et al.			
		3 9 0 2 5 4 4	09/02/75	Flemings et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLA- TION
							Y N
		EP 0 7 4 5 6 9 4	12/04/96				X
		WO 9 8/ 0 3 6 8 6	01/29/98				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL		
		Flemings, Merton C., "Behavior of Metal Alloys in the Semisolid State," METALLURGICAL TRANSACTIONS B, Vol. 22B, June 1991, pp. 269-293.
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.		